

Dear Committee Members:

Please accept this testimony in regards to the physician-assisted suicide bill is House Bill 5326 "An Act Concerning Compassionate Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Patients".

My family and I have had the unfortunate circumstance of watching two family members, my father and grandfather, die from lung cancer. While they did not choose physician-assisted suicide, I can understand why others might.

Watching someone succumb to an incurable disease is a torture for the person suffering from the disease as well as those around him/her. Doctors, hospitals, and institutions, as well-meaning as most of them are, cannot stop the loss of humanity that often accompanies treatment and the side effects of those treatments. Worse yet, when treatment is no longer an option, the ravages of the disease itself are often beyond what many can physically, mentally and emotionally endure.

In general, any legislation that inhibits choice should be limited or eliminated. While every adult may not choose physician-assisted suicide, those that do, should have the right as part of their personal liberty.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Cheryl A. Rykowski
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